

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH): (a) The work is not yet sanctioned.

(b) Does not arise.

Indo-Bangladesh goods train services

1529. DR. Y. LAKSHMI PRASAD: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the details of agreement signed with Bangladesh to resume goods train service; and

(b) by when the service would be revived to boost trade and commerce?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH): (a) Following four Railway links were operational between India and Bangladesh.

- Gede (India)-Darsana (Bangladesh)—Broad Gauge
- Singhabad (India)-Rohanpur (Bangladesh)—Broad Gauge
- Radhikapur (India)-Birol (Bangladesh)—Meter Gauge
- Mahisasan (India)-Shahbazpur (Bangladesh)—Meter Gauge.

A fifth Direct Railway link between Petrapole (India)-Benapole (Bangladesh)-Broad Gauge for goods train services has also become operational recently for which Working Agreement has been signed on 4.7.2000 between Government of India through Ministry of Railways and Government of the People Republic of Bangladesh through Bangladesh Railways.

(b) Commercial notification has been issued by Railways for operationalising this route. Freight trains will run between Petrapole-Benapole as and when indents are received.

Rail line in Surrendanagar Distt. in Gujarat

1530. SHRI BRAHMAKUMAR BHATT: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is a rail line in Surendranagar District in Gujarat;

- (b) if so, whether the same is functioning well;
- (c) if not, the steps being taken to update it;
- (d) whether there is any plan to introduce a new rail line; and
- (e) if so, whether any survey has been made and by when the work will start?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH): (a) Yes, Sir. There are several railway lines in the District.

(b) to (e) Yes, Sir. However, gauge conversion of Dharangadhara-Kuda and Surendranagar-Botad lines is in progress and when this work completed, direct linkages to the national BG network from all the stations on these lines will be available.

Transportation of relief measures to drought hit states By trains

1531. SHRI BACHANI LEKHRAJ: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

- (a) the quantity of grass sent through rail wagons to drought hit States, State-wise;
- (b) the quantity of water supplied to these States, State-wise;
- (c) the number of passenger and goods trains cancelled while sending the grass and water; and
- (d) the revenue loss incurred by the Railways for giving the relief?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH): (a) and (b) The quantity